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ACTION WHA-00

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INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CA-00	INL-00	PDI-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	DCP-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	IRM-00	BBG-00
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WHITE HOUSE WASHDC  
ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE;  
EUROPE

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

1. "Too many votes against Kyoto"  
Canadian independent journalist based in London, Gwynne Dyer commented in the liberal Toronto Star (12/6): "If the world were run by scientists, by the time the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Montreal ends on Friday we would have global agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 25 or 30 per cent in the follow-on period to the Kyoto agreement, which expires in 2012. But it won't happen: The Bush blockade and the absence of China and India were probably enough to block agreement anyway, and now there is also the Blair Switch.... In August, the Bush administration persuaded China, India, Australia, Japan and South Korea to sign up for a rival pact, the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate, that fixes no emission targets and talks only of encouraging private industry to develop low-emission technologies and transfer them to industrializing countries. But if there are no

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targets, where's the incentive? Now even Tony Blair, long the main champion for Kyoto among the G-8 leaders, has effectively declared the treaty dead. In September, sitting on a platform with Condoleezza Rice, he announced that he was 'changing my thinking about this,' and no longer wanted the world's nations to negotiate international treaties on climate change.

'The truth is, no country is going to cut its growth or consumption substantially in light of a long-term environmental problem,' he said. The only hope, Blair concluded, lay in new science and technology. Given these grave new blows to the basic Kyoto notion that emission limits and new technologies go hand in hand, it's probably pointless to expect the Montreal conference to be more than a holding operation. Nobody will be aiming at 30 per cent cuts in carbon dioxide emissions in 2012-2020. Just agree to meet again in a year or two, and wait for more environmental disasters to change people's minds."

2. "The money and power behind the Kyoto fallacy"

Editorial writer David Warren commented in the nationalist Ottawa Citizen (12/3): "...[T]he Kyoto Agreement - the stick with which the international bureaucratic left has been beating an anti-American tattoo for many years now - has fallen to pieces. This is what makes it so necessary for its supporters to suggest the sky is falling, instead. Look out for more big climate-scare stories, coming to a newspaper near you. Do not expect them to be coherent. Kyoto is now being disowned by one European state after another - on grounds it is utterly impractical, and seriously counter-productive - led by the little England of Tony Blair, which is about to fire up the coal generators again, in the face of looming power shortages. The politicians have hardly resolved to get out of the environmental regulation business. But neither have they suddenly decided to advance the heat death of the universe, instead. They just need to spread their bureaucracies in a way that will contribute less to the strangulation of their tax bases. They still buy into the possibility that human acts might be contributing to a global warming trend that either is or is not happening, on a time scale that might be short, medium, or long. They just realize that if something must be done about greenhouse gas emissions, there have got to be more intelligent ways to do it than by suppressing economic activity throughout the Western world. And there are. They consist mostly of getting the

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bureaucracies out of the way of technological innovation. Which could mean, for instance, letting oil prices soar to levels where competing methods of generating heat, light, and motion kick in, of their own free market accord...."

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3 "Torture flights' taint Rice's fence-mending visit to Europe"

International affairs columnist Jonathan Manthorpe observed in the left-of-center Vancouver Sun (12/6): "Just when it seemed trans-Atlantic relations were on the mend after the damage inflicted by the U.S. Invasion of Iraq, the exposure of Washington's 'air

torture' operations has re-awakened deep-seated anti-American sentiments here. Outraged public and political opinion in Europe has tainted what might have otherwise been a useful fencemending visit by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who arrived in Germany on Monday before going on to Romania and Ukraine and then back to the hub of the European Union in Brussels. Rice was thrown onto the defensive even before she left home after the media and European governments documented hundreds of flights in the past four years to and over Europe by airlines associated with the Central Intelligence Agency. Some and perhaps many of these flights carried abducted terrorism suspects for interrogation in secret prisons. As she left the U.S., Rice issued a robust defence of the CIA's practice, known as 'extraordinary renditions,' of secretly abducting terror suspects for detention and questioning beyond the rule of law and sometimes by allies adept at the use of torture.... Rice's justification might be more convincing if it bore a more substantial relationship to what is known to have happened in several cases. Canadians will be most familiar with the story of Maher Arar, who was detained in New York and then shipped off to Syria where a confession of terrorist links he claims is false was extracted. If there was legitimate reason to suspect and charge Arar it is hard to believe the Canadian or U.S. justice systems could not have coped with it.... Just as troubling for many Europeans that CIA snatch teams are operating in their countries is the clear indication that elements of their own governments are at least turning a blind eye to the abductions. In her Monday statement, Rice was careful to implicate those governments. Here in Germany, where the government has

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logged 437 CIA flights, there are demands to investigate the previous administration, which stepped down two weeks ago. Especially damaging for America's reputation in Europe, however, is that the CIA turned quickly to its old Cold War adversaries and the brutal Communist-era officials who remained in control of security services in newly democratic Poland and Romania for help in its interrogation operations."

WILKINS

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